

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01843 082152Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 /085 W
-----045654 082157Z /61

O 082151Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1215
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 01843

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, FJ, IS, LE
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: ORGANIZATION OF THE FIJIAN
- CONTRIBUTION TO UNIFIL

1. AMBASSADOR VUNIBOBO OF FIJI ASKED TO CALL ON AMBASSADOR MCHENRY MAY 8 TO CONSULT ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION OF FIJI'S CONTRIBUTION OF A 600-MAN BATTALION TO UNIFIL. VUNIBOBO SAID THREE FIJIAN MILITARY OFFICERS HAVE ARRIVED TO DISCUSS WITH UNNY OFFICIALS THE DETAILS OF MOVING FIJI'S CONTINGENT TO LEBANON. AFTER DISCUSSION WITH UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL URQUHART'S STAFF NOW SCHEDULED FOR 11:00 A.M. MAY 9, TWO OF THE FIJIAN OFFICERS PLAN TO PROCEED TO LEBANON TO GET A FEEL FOR THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND.

2. VUNIBOBO SAID FIJI HAS SUFFICIENT MANPOWER TO MAKE THIS CONTRIBUTION, BUT IT HAS NO EQUIPMENT FOR ITS TROOPS (INCLUDING WEAPONS) AND IT REQUIRES ASSISTANCE IN AIRLIFT
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FROM FIJI TO LEBANON. HE SAID FIJI HAS INQUIRED OF THE AUSTRALIANS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AUSTRALIAN AIRLIFT ASSISTANCE, AND IS PRESENTLY AWAITING A REPLY TO THAT INQUIRY.

3. AMBASSADOR MCHENRY SAID WE WOULD INFORM THE DEPARTMENT ABOUT FIJI'S INQUIRY. HE ASSUMED THAT THE UNITED STATES

WOULD BE WILLING TO PROVIDE AIRLIFT. AS FOR THE PROBLEM OF EQUIPPING THE FIJIAN BATTALION, MCHENRY SAID THIS SHOULD BE RAISED WITH THE UN, ALONG WITH THE QUESTION OF AIRLIFT, BUT THAT HE WOULD ALSO CONSULT WASHINGTON. HE WONDERED WHETHER AUSTRALIA MIGHT WISH TO ASSIST IN PROVIDING EQUIPMENT IF THE US HANDLES THE AIRLIFT.

4. MCHENRY OFFERED TO TRY TO GET WASHINGTON'S INITIAL REACTION FOR ADVICE TO VUNIBOBO BEFORE THE FIJIANS' CONSULTATIONS WITH THE UN MAY 9. LEONARD

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 08 may 1978
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: MARR, AFIN, FJ, IS, LE, UNIFIL
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